

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. 016790-0445

In re patent application of

Juergern MANNSS

Serial No.: Unassigned

Filed: December 21, 2001

For: OPTICAL VIEWING DEVICE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, Applicant respectfully requests that the following amendments be entered into the application:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 12 with the following amended claims:

--1. (Amended) A device for controlling the brightness of an optical signal overlaid on a specimen image, for example in a microscope, having a main beam path (1, 2, 6), a main objective (12), a main light source (11), and a beam splitter (23) for reflecting image data into the main beam path (6), wherein the illumination for the reflected-in image (4) can be generated on a transmitted-light basis, in particular by means of a transmitted-light display (21), selectably directly or indirectly by way of the main light source (11) and/or a second light source (18) controllable as a function of the main light source.

3. (Amended) The device as defined in Claim 1, wherein an optical prism (17), a mirror, or the like is provided for switching between the main light source and reflected-in image light source.

4. (Amended) The device as defined in Claim 1, wherein the beam path of the main light source (11) is divided by means of a beam splitter into a reflected-in image beam path (3) and a specimen illumination beam path (1).

5. (Amended) The device as defined in Claim 1, wherein the brightness of the reflected-in image light source (18) is controlled electronically, but preferably in mechanically overwritable fashion.

6. (Amended) The device as defined in Claim 1, wherein the light wavelength of the reflected-in image light source (18) is adjustable.

7. (Amended) The device as defined in Claim 1, wherein the brightness of the reflected-in image is controllable by means of a shutter (19) and/or a diaphragm.

8. (Amended) The device as defined in Claim 1, wherein the intensity of the reflected specimen light can be amplified, in particular by way of an additional light source or an electronically controlled residual light amplifier.

9. (Amended) The device as defined in Claim 1, wherein a reflective display (32) or an incident-light display, for example a D-ILA display (32), is provided for the reflected-in image instead of a transmitted-light display (21).

10. (Amended) The device as defined in Claim 1, wherein a preferably controllable portion of the reflected specimen light can be directed via a separate beam path (3) onto the transmitted-light display or incident-light display, and the specimen can be imaged thereon, optionally in unsharp fashion.

12. (Amended) The device as defined in Claim 10, wherein an additional light source (18) can be superimposed into the display illumination beam path.--

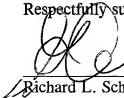
REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing amendments to Claims 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 12 be entered in order to avoid this application incurring a surcharge for the presence of one or more multiple dependent claims. It is also requested that the amendment to Claim 1 the correct a clerical error be entered. A marked-up version of the claims showing the changes made is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSIONS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. A device for controlling the brightness of an optical signal overlaid on a specimen image, for example in a microscope, having a main beam path (1, 2, 6), a main objective (12), a main light source (11), [and] a beam splitter (23) for reflecting image data into the main beam path (6), wherein the illumination for the reflected-in image (4) can be generated on a transmitted-light basis, in particular by means of a transmitted-light display (21), selectably directly or indirectly by way of the main light source (11) and/or a second light source (18) controllable as a function of the main light source.

3. The device as defined in Claim 1[and/or 2], wherein an optical prism (17), a mirror, or the like is provided for switching between the main light source and reflected-in image light source.

4. The device as defined in [one of the foregoing claims] Claim 1, wherein the beam path of the main light source (11) is divided by means of a beam splitter into a reflected-in image beam path (3) and a specimen illumination beam path (1).

5. The device as defined in [one of the foregoing claims] Claim 1, wherein the brightness of the reflected-in image light source (18) is controlled electronically, but preferably in mechanically overwritable fashion.

6. The device as defined in [one of the foregoing claims] Claim 1, wherein the light wavelength of the reflected-in image light source (18) is adjustable.

7. The device as defined in [one of the foregoing claims] Claim 1, wherein the brightness of the reflected-in image is controllable by means of a shutter (19) and/or a diaphragm.

8. The device as defined in [one of the foregoing claims] Claim 1, wherein the intensity of the reflected specimen light can be amplified, in particular by way of an additional light source or an electronically controlled residual light amplifier.

9. The device as defined in [one of the foregoing claims] Claim 1, wherein a reflective display (32) or an incident-light display, for example a D-ILA display (32), is provided for the reflected-in image instead of a transmitted-light display (21).

10. The device as defined in [one of the foregoing claims] Claim 1, wherein a preferably controllable portion of the reflected specimen light can be directed via a separate beam path (3) onto the transmitted-light display or incident-light display, and the specimen can be imaged thereon, optionally in unsharp fashion.

12. The device as defined in Claim 10[or 11], wherein an additional light source (18) can be superimposed into the display illumination beam path.

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